

REMARKS

This amendment is in response to the Office Action of January 12, 2006. By this amendment, Applicant is canceling claims 1 through 12 and presenting claims 13 through 20, which claims for the reasons set forth below are submitted to be patentable over the cited prior art.

As Examiner well knows, the present invention provides a compact, self contained light source that is fully portable about an investigation scene without connecting cables thereby simplifying the location of items of forensic interest (page 1, paragraph 3). The instrument may be hand-held in two different positions thereby permitting searching a multitude of surface in compact situations. This is in contrast to the prior light sources, including the primary reference of Peng wherein cables are used to connect to a separate source. Applicant's light source uses a replaceable, rechargeable battery on the rear of the housing. Further, Examiner will appreciate that the light source generates considerable heat, which can affect both the housing temperature, operating conditions, and importantly the optical integrity of the filters. In Peng, the air inlet 34 is substantially behind the filters, thereby rendering problematic the effectiveness of cooling thereat. Further, Peng has a single handle 14 rigidly connected to the top of the housing limiting maneuverability and complicating filter selection if inverted.

The foregoing features are recited in new claim 13 and are not taught nor suggested by the cited prior art. Further, there is no motivation in the cited prior art for overcoming such insufficiencies. Claim 13 recites "a rechargeable battery operatively removably mounted on said rear base". Such is absent in Peng. Inasmuch as the fan of Peng is on the rear surface of the housing (Figure 4), a battery at that location would obviously interfere with operation. Claim 13 further recites "a handle member selectively

removably attached at either a top surface or bottom surface of said housing member". The Peng hand is fixedly connected at only the top surface. Additionally, claim 13 recites the above referenced cooling path for the interior space and the filers, the cooling path having "an air inlet ... immediately behind the slide member". This multiply effective cooling path is not taught or suggested by Peng. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 13 recites patentable novelty over the cited prior art.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that claim 13, and claims 14 through 20 dependent thereon, recited patentable novelty and allowance thereof is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,

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